## COLORADO MEDICAID ANNOUNCES BUY-IN PROGRAM FOR WORKING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2012

Media Contact: Rachel Reiter 303-866-3921

DENVER – March 21, 2012 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Coloradans can now apply for a new Medicaid program called Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working Adults with Disabilities (Adult Buy-In). This program will allow eligible adults with disabilities to work or increase their hours and still access Medicaid benefits by paying a monthly premium based on their income.

The Adult Buy-In is a federally authorized program that has been adopted in 44 other states. The program is funded by a hospital provider fee and federal matching funds and uses no Colorado general funds.

"The Adult Buy-In program allows continued access to Medicaid benefits by providing the option to 'buy into' Medicaid," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "The Adult Buy-In program encourages and incentivizes adults with disabilities to work without losing access to Medicaid benefits."

Eligibility for the Adult Buy-In is based on federal poverty guidelines. The program allows eligible clients to earn up to 450% of the federal poverty level (FPL), which in 2012 is approximately \$50,265 for a family of one.

Additional criteria for the program includes:

- Adults at least age 16, but less than 65 years of age;
- Employed; and
- Have a qualifying disability

For more information, <u>click here</u> or contact our Customer Service Center at 303-866-3513 in the Denver metro area, or 800-221-3943 outside the metro area or apply online at <u>Colorado.gov/PEAK</u>.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income, elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit <u>Colorado.gov/hcpf</u>.